



# BIDWELL-SACRAMENTO RIVER STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN

## WELCOME TO THE GENERAL PLAN PROCESS

**T**he California Department of Parks and Recreation is launching a planning process to develop a General Plan for Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park. Working together with the community, this planning process will create a vision for the future of the park so it can be enhanced and enjoyed for years to come. We invite you to join us in planning the park's future!

We welcome your ideas and suggestions for improving this park and preserving its special characteristics. You can start by filling out the enclosed survey and attending the Public Planning Workshop on March 18. Public input will help us focus on priorities, desires, and concerns as we evaluate the park's recreational uses, access points, and natural resources. This General Plan will guide management and stewardship of the park for years to come. So we hope you will take some time to get involved in planning the future of this unique river-front park.

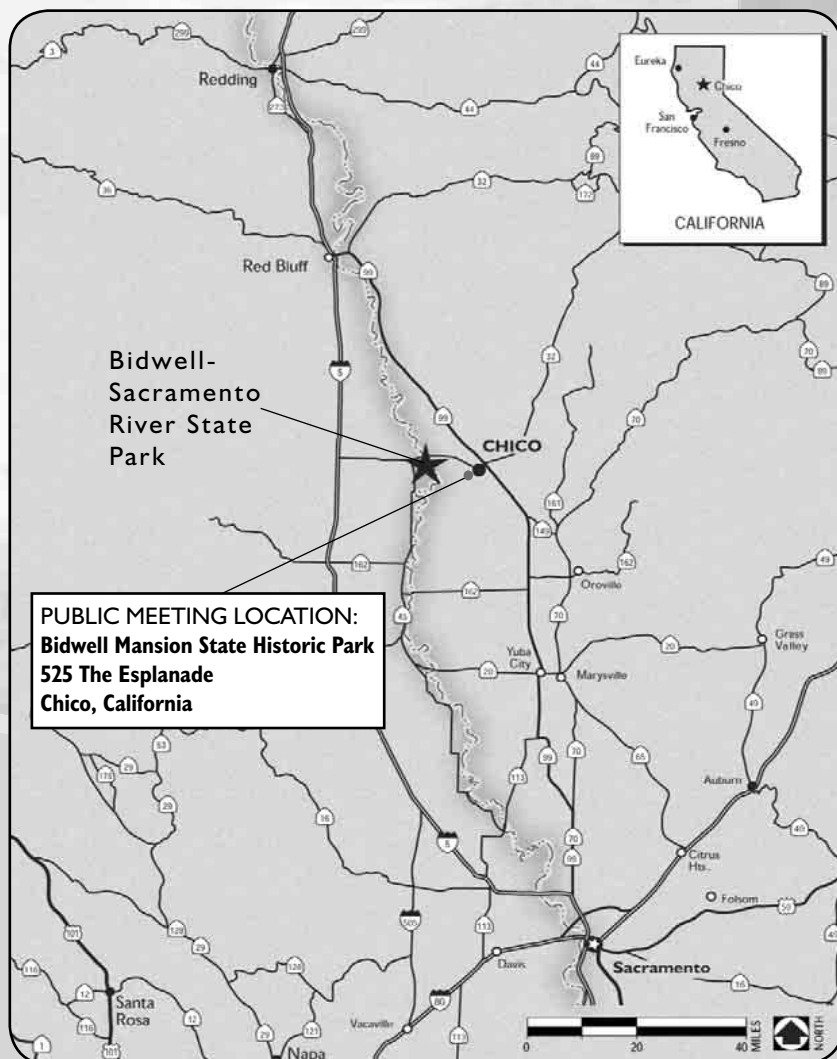
## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

The planning process offers several ways for you to contribute:

**Stay Informed:** Updates of this newsletter will be published to keep you informed about progress on the General Plan. If you did not receive this newsletter by mail, please call or contact us at the address on the back page and ask to be placed on our mailing list.

**Fill Out the Survey:** The enclosed survey is intended to give us an idea of your major issues and concerns. Topics could include favorite recreation activities, habitat protection and management, facility improvements, or education or interpretive programs. Tell us what you like, what's missing, or what could work better. If you prefer, you may fill out the survey on-line via the Web at <http://www.edaw.com/survey/takesurvey.asp?surveyid=59>. Please complete this survey by March 24, 2003.

**Attend the Public Planning Workshops:** We will host a series of public planning workshops for the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park General Plan. The first workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 18 at Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park in Chico. This will also serve as a "scoping meeting" for the Environmental Impact Report which will be prepared along with the General Plan. Please join us to share your ideas for improving the park!



**PUBLIC MEETING LOCATION:**  
Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park  
525 The Esplanade  
Chico, California

## PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

You are invited to attend the first Public Planning Workshop and EIR Scoping Meeting:

**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2003

**Time:** 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Location:** Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park  
525 The Esplanade  
Chico, California

# Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park

## JUST WHERE IS

### BIDWELL-SACRAMENTO RIVER STATE PARK?

**B**idwell-Sacramento River State Park lies in the heart of the Sacramento Valley, flanking the banks of the Sacramento River on which it depends. Located six miles west of the City of Chico and roughly 90 miles north of Sacramento, park access is from River Road and State Highway 32.

The park is made up of four separate properties, totaling about 240 acres: 1) Big Chico Creek Riparian Area/Peterson Addition, 2) Indian Fishery/Chico Landing, 3) Pine Creek Landing, and 4) Irvine Finch River Access. Lush valley oak riparian woodland and other riparian communities characterize the environment. In addition to its natural resources, the park possesses outstanding opportunities for river-oriented recreation – from quiet nature trails, fishing, and picnicking to boating and tubing.



A rich history of the present-day park begins with the Maidu Native Americans. Early settlers used the site to construct a ferry landing to transport goods from one river bank to the other. Eventually ownership fell to John and Annie Bidwell, who were influential in the development of the Chico area. The Bidwell family deeded the property to the State of California in 1908. The park property changed ownership several times during the 1900s, and in August, 1979, the park was transferred back into the California state park system.

### Resources at Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park include:

- Sacramento River and tributaries
- Native riparian habitat (e.g., valley oak woodland)
- Special-status wildlife species (e.g., giant garter snake, anadromous fish species, Swainson's hawk, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle)

- Oxbow Lake at Indian Fishery
- Historic and prehistoric areas (e.g., Chico Landing, bridge sites, Sea Scout station, Bidwell ferry site, Native American occupation sites)
- Popular recreational areas (e.g., Irvine Finch River Access, Pine Creek Landing, Big Chico Creek gravel bar)
- Potential acquisition areas

### Some ~~topics~~ that the General Plan process will consider include:

- Protection and long-term resource management of sensitive natural and cultural resource areas
- Property acquisition to form contiguous management tracts
- Increased recreational access, including improved water and undeveloped area access (e.g., trail development and parking areas).
- Expansion of recreational facilities (e.g., environmental education camps and primitive campgrounds)
- Management of river tubing activities during peak recreational periods
- Public safety and law enforcement
- Development of interpretive facilities, such as a visitor center and interpretive panels highlighting natural and cultural resources
- Facility location and design to avoid flooding events
- Improved inter-agency and regional coordination



### WHY A GENERAL PLAN?

**T**his General Plan will be the primary guideline for the management of Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park, establishing its purpose and goals for the future. Long-range development and management of the park will be defined by broad policy and program guidance. The plan will also provide a framework for resource stewardship, interpretation, facilities, visitor use, and services. This framework will guide day-to-day



decision-making and serve as the basis for developing more focused management plans, specific project plans, and other management actions necessary to implement the goals of the General Plan over the next 20 years.

Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park has never had a General Plan, so it is important to develop a sound plan for the park that will meet the needs of park visitors while balancing concerns for natural resource protection. The General Plan process is an opportunity to plan for the protection of the park's historical and natural resources, while exploring how to enhance its recreational use.

## WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GENERAL PLAN AND THE EIR?

**A**long with the General Plan, a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The EIR will identify potential environmental effects of the General Plan's programs, policies, and actions, as well as discuss mitigation measures to reduce their environmental impacts. The EIR will have a broad level of detail because broad-scale policies and programs will be prescribed in the General Plan. It will also provide natural and cultural resource information for use in future, project-level environmental reviews, which will involve more detailed analysis of specific developments and projects.



## Environmental topics that will likely be addressed in the EIR include:

- Potential conflicts between sensitive wildlife species/natural communities (e.g., giant garter snake, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, valley oak woodland) and facility development
- Facility development in flood-prone areas
- Conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses such as recreational facilities and conservation actions
- Potential for significant effects on historic and prehistoric resources in the park
- Erosion/water quality impacts along the Sacramento River and its tributaries
- Substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern in the project area



## WHO MANAGES THE PARK?

**R**esponsibility for day-to-day management of Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park lies with the staff of the Northern Buttes District of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. District staff members oversee all aspects of park management, including facility development and maintenance, resource protection, and public safety. The staff is looking forward to working with the public in developing a General Plan that meets the needs of its regular users from the community, as well as visitors who come from all over the state and beyond. We look forward to meeting you!

Michael Fehling  
**Supervising Ranger**

Joseph Akers  
**Park Maintenance Supervisor**

Roger Calloway  
**District Landscape Architect**

Ellen Clark  
**District Interpretive Specialist**

Woody Elliot  
**District Resource Ecologist**

Steve Feazel  
**Sector Superintendent**

Rick McGaugh  
**Park Ranger**



California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Northern Buttes District  
400 Glen Drive  
Oroville, California 95966

## BIDWELL-SACRAMENTO RIVER STATE PARK

# Calendar of Events

### GENERAL PLAN PROCESS AT A GLANCE

#### WINTER 2003

Fieldwork  
**PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1**  
(& EIR SCOPING MEETING)  
Tuesday, March 18, 6:00 pm to  
8:00 pm at Bidwell Mansion  
State Historic Park, Chico

#### SPRING/SUMMER 2003

Evaluate Opportunities &  
Constraints  
Develop General Plan Alternatives  
**PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2**  
(date to be announced)  
Prepare Draft General Plan & EIR

#### FALL 2003

Public Review of Draft General  
Plan & EIR  
**PUBLIC WORKSHOP #3**  
(date to be announced)

#### SPRING 2004

Final General Plan & EIR  
Agency Approvals

**If you are not currently on our mailing list  
and would like to receive this newsletter and  
announcements of future workshops, or wish to  
send written comments, please contact us at:**

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Northern Buttes District  
400 Glen Drive  
Oroville, California 95966  
530.538.2200  
(for questions or comments about the General Plan process)

For questions about park hours, access, etc.,  
please call 530.342.5185  
Please send written comments and/or return the  
enclosed survey by March 24, 2003. You  
may call with questions or ask to join the  
mailing list at any time.

## Contact Information

**Visit Our Website**  
**[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)**

Under "Related Links" click on "General Plans"



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# Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park General Plan Survey

Please mail by March 24, 2003,  
or if you prefer to fill this survey out on-line, log onto  
<http://www.edaw.com/survey/takesurvey.asp?surveyid=59>



**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address<sup>2</sup>:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, may be available for public inspection in their entirety.

<sup>2</sup> If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the State Public Records Act, you must state this prominently below. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law.

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**Would you like to remain on our mailing list to receive  
future planning updates?**

**Yes**      **No**  
☐      ☐

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**How often do you visit Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park?**

- ☐ once a year to several times a year
- ☐ every few years
- ☐ I've never visited

**What do you value most about Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What do you like the least?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What improvements should be made to better accommodate park users  
(e.g., boat launches, camp sites, trails) and where should they be located?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(over)

What activities do you participate in when visiting Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park?

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/jogging | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (motorized)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking      | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (non-motorized) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tubing                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |

How far do you travel to get to the park? (miles) \_\_\_\_\_

What are your key concerns about the environment within the park and/or topics that you would like to see addressed in the General Plan and Environmental Impact Report?

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What changes would you like to see? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have suggestions as to how the various government agencies could best coordinate management of public lands adjacent to the State Park? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there anything else that you would like to share with us? \_\_\_\_\_

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(You may add more pages if you like.)

Thank you!

please fold in thirds

tape closed, affix a 37 cent stamp and mail by March 24, 2003

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requires  
37 cent  
stamp

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Northern Buttes District  
400 Glen Drive  
Oroville, CA 95966

